IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the desulfurization conditions satisfy the following formula (2):

$1.19\times P_{ope}^{0.35}<T_{ope}/T_{50}<1.68\times P_{ope}^{0.24}$ ···(2).

Claims 3-4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the metallic desulfurizing agent is a nickel-copper-based desulfurizing agent.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the liquid hydrocarbon comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a gasoline fraction, a kerosene fraction, and a gas oil fraction.

Claims 7-11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a desulfurized liquid hydrocarbon, comprising:

identifying distillation characteristics of a liquid hydrocarbon;

selecting desulfurization conditions based on the distillation characteristics of the liquid hydrocarbon; and

contacting the liquid hydrocarbon with a metallic desulfurizing agent under the desulfirzation conditions to obtain the desulfurized liquid hydrocarbon;

wherein:

selecting the desulfurization conditions comprises selecting conditions satisfying the following formula (1):

$$1.06\times P_{ope}^{0.44}<T_{ope}/T_{50}<1.78\times P_{ope}^{0.22} \quad (1)$$

wherein

T_{ope} represents operation temperature in °C;

P_{ope} represents operation pressure in MPa; and

T_{50} represents a temperature per 50 percent recovered as determined by the "test method for distillation at atmospheric pressure" provided in the standard JIS K2254 "Petroleum products – Determination of distillation characteristics" as revised in 1998.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 12, wherein~~:~~

~~hydrogen addition is not employed while removing sulfur content; and~~

the metallic desulfurizing agent ~~comprises~~ includes a porous inorganic oxide and a metallic element ~~comprising~~ including at least nickel (Ni) supported ~~on the porous inorganic oxide~~thereon.